

BOARD OF ALDERMAN

June 05, 2023

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Connelly Springs met at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Board Room in Connelly Springs, North Carolina. The following board members were present: Mayor Dennis Seagle, Alderman Terry Childers, Alderman Steve Smart, Alderman Jeffrey Beck, Alderman Ramona Duncan, Alderman Carroll Turner and Alderman Kimberly Sigmon. Also, in attendance were: Attorney Jared Amos, Town Administrator Tamara Brooks, Deputy Brian Sigmon, Planning Board Members Debbie Pelick, Bobby Tomlinson, as well as residents Johnny and Cloise Berry, and Sophia Greene. The Board meeting was recorded in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-72, 171.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Mayor Seagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION: Since the invocation was previously given in the public hearing, Mayor Seagle asked those in attendance to rise and give the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Alderman Turner made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: Alderman Smart made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Aldermen’s regular meeting on May 01, 2023, as presented. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Former Mayor Johnny Berry asked that his name be removed from the contact list for the security system. Recent alarms have been activated by those using the Community Room and he has been contacted to clear the alarm for the town. Administrator Brooks said she has asked Security Unlimited to update the contact list twice now, but will ensure that his name/number is removed.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2023/2024: Alderman Smart presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 (see attached). The final reading is scheduled for Monday, June 19th; with the public hearing scheduled at 6:30 pm and the regular meeting at 7 pm.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Administrator Brooks presented the calendar for June and July.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Attorney Amos had no active

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Seagle suggested the town purchase two (2) of the speed signs to make drivers aware of their speed inside town limits. The cost of two (2) signs from Elan is approximately six thousand four hundred dollars (\$6,400) including solar panels. Alderman Smart made a motion to purchase two (2) speed signs from Elan and to add money to the budget for their installation. Alderman Childers seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Administrator Brooks was instructed to purchase the signs.

FINANCE: Alderman Smart presented the financial reports and said they are available for review. The town continues to well this fiscal year with income received of one hundred twenty-two percent (122%) more than what was budgeted for this fiscal year to date. Expenses are at eighty-five percent (85%) of the budgeted amount for the fiscal year to date. He said the Board needs to select a new finance officer since he will be leaving office in December. He also reminded Administrator Brooks to make plans to move General Fund monies into money market accounts at the close of the fiscal year to bring the beginning General Fund balance to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000).

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

POLICE: Alderman Childers asked Deputy Sigmon to give his report for May.

Larceny – 1 Disturbance -- 1 Breaking and Entering – 2 Overdose/Fatality – 1
Fight in Progress – 1 Order for Arrest – 4

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 119

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Deputy Sigmon and Administrator Brooks met with Burke County Planning Director Alan Glines and Burke County Zoning Administrator Bradley Kirkley to discuss the town's agreement for Code Enforcement Services. Several items were discussed, including better communication from Code Enforcement Officer Marler with regards to case statuses. Deputy Marler is going to send monthly updates to be presented to the Board at regular meetings for review. Any legal action taken on the town's behalf would be handled by Attorney Amos. Deputy Sigmon and Administrator Brooks believe there should be noticeable improvement made with more frequent communication from the county and town going forward.

Alderman Sigmon asked if Alderman Childers was aware of the meeting with county officials. Alderman Childers said he did not know about the meeting. Administrator Brooks said she had been trying to coordinate a time for everyone to meet but it was difficult. She said it was not intentional to exclude anyone from the meeting but circumstances of short notice from the county. She took the opportunity to meet with them, since both Glines and Kirkley were available, to begin the discussion on what expectations were not being met and how best to address those. Deputy Sigmon spoke to Glines and Kirkley about problem areas that have had little to no improvement since he began working as Community Officer. Director Glines said he would be glad to come to a Board meeting to discuss ideas for future improvement or answer questions as they arise.

WATER/SEWER: None.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Alderman Duncan said the first concert of the season with Bantum Rooster went well. She reminded everyone that the next concert is scheduled for Saturday, June 10th with 80z Nation. Food trucks for the evening will be Lucky Dogs and Kona Ice of Hickory. She asked all those who could to attend and give their support.

PERSONNEL:

Alderman Sigmon requested a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

PROPERTY:

Alderman Turner said he would have a final recommendation for the Landscaping/Public Grounds contract at the next meeting on June 19th.

TRANSPORTATION: None.

CLOSED SESSION: Alderman Smart made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Alderman Duncan seconded the motion. Alderman Sigmon asked Administrator Brooks to step out of the room.

OPEN SESSION: Alderman Duncan made a motion to return to open session. Alderman Sigmon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board of Aldermen, Mayor Seagle called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Smart made a motion to adjourn with Alderman Childers seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dennis Seagle, Mayor

Tamara Brooks, Town Administrator/Clerk